

Ramsbottom Urban District Council.

Medical Officer's Annual Report,

FOR 1894.

To the Chairman and Members of the Ramsbottom Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,—The Report which I beg to lay before you has been drawn up in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Board, detailing the mortality for the past year, together with the birthrate, an estimate of the diseases in the district, as well as a summary of the actions taken during the year for the prevention of the spreading of disease.

For the calculation of the different rates, we find that, instead of the census population of 1891, according to the assessment up to the middle of the year, the population is reckoned at 17,238 an increase of 493 over the previous population.

The district as you are aware is divided into the four wards—Central, comprising an area of 260 acres, and a population of 5,752; West Ward with an area of 2,314 acres, and a population of 3,855; East Ward, with an area of 1,112 acres, and a population of 4,354; North Ward, with an area of 2,609 acres, and a population of 3,267; the whole district thus comprising an area of 6,295 acres and a population of 17,238.

The tables A and B supplied by the Local Government Board, showing the sickness and mortality within the district, are filled in and accompany this report.

I am happy to report that in the year ended 31st December, 1894, there has been a decrease in the total number of deaths of 14, and in regard to deaths from infectious diseases, there has been a decrease of 4, as compared with last year.

According to the returns from the Registrars, we find that, during the year ending 31st December, 1894, the number of deaths recorded was 227, and this calculated on the above population, gives a deathrate of 13.17 per 1,000 for the year. For the same period, the birthrate is 27.3 per 1,000, 195 males, and 214 females having been born, giving a total of 409.

With reference to sex, 102 males died and 125 females.

The deathrate from infectious diseases is .9 per 1,000 of the population, and 7 per cent of the entire number of deaths. The deaths of children under one year, including premature births, numbered 41, giving a deathrate of 18 per cent of the entire number of the deaths, and 10 per cent calculated on the number born during the year.

As will be seen from the following table, showing the ages at which the deaths occurred throughout the district, with the exception of two periods, there is a decrease for this year as compared with the previous year, and it is satisfactory to note that in reference to longevity the deaths of 15 persons occurred after attaining the age of 75 years, and of 5 after the age of 80 years.

	1893.	1894.
Deaths under one year of age.....	46	41
„ over 1 year and under 5.....	18	26
„ over 5 years and under 15....	6	6
„ over 15 years and under 25 ..	14	16
„ over 25 years and under 60 ..	78	70
„ over 60 years	79	68
Deaths under 5 years of age.....	64	67
„ over 5 years of age	177	160
Total.....	241	227

I append the following table, showing (a) area in acres, (b) population, (c) total number of deaths for the year, (d) deaths from seven principal Zymotic diseases, (e) deathrate for such disease, and (f) birthrate for the year.

	Central	West	East	North	Entire District
Areas in Acres.....	260	2314	1112	2609	6295
Population	5752	3855	4364	3267	17238
Deaths for the year..	84	52	42	49	227
Deaths from infectious diseases..	8	2	2	4	16
Death rate per 1000 from such diseases	1.4	1.125	1.12	1.25	.9
Births for the year..	281	96	59	409	

The following table will furnish a comparison of the deaths from infectious diseases and other causes for the last ten years.

	1885	1886	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894
Smallpox ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	0	17	1	2	19	2	6	12	0	0
Scarlet Fev..	5	5	10	5	2	5	6	9	1	0
Diphtheria ..	0	4	0	2	2	3	3	1	2	5
Whooping C..	14	4	6	0	13	4	0	5	2	6
Typhus Fev..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enteric Fev..	2	3	3	1	0	0	7	1	3	1
Doubtful....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas ..	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1
Dysentery ..	3	16	6	2	10	3	7	7	11	3
Infectious D.	24	49	36	10	47	22	29	35	20	16
Other causes	258	252	297	304	251	266	297	257	221	211

A perusal of the column in the preceding table for the past year shows that Diphtheria and Whooping Cough have been the causes of 11 out of the 16 deaths due to Infectious Diseases. From Diphtheria five deaths resulted, occurring in isolated cases during the last four months of the year, and of these, three occurred in Central Ward, being distributed thus:—One in Stanley-street in October, one in Spring-street in November, and one in Factory-street in December. The Inspector and myself visited the different places, but could not ascertain any serious defect in the Sanitary arrangements. The remaining two occurred in East Ward, one in Wallis-street in September, and the other in Fern-street in December.

Whooping Cough seems to have been distributed equally over the district, and has caused six deaths. From Enteric Fever one death has been recorded. It occurred in Chatterton-road, North Ward, in the month of July. The case came under my own supervision, and from enquiries made I found that no further outbreak occurred in the locality. From Diarrhoea and Dysentery three deaths have occurred, two of them in Central Ward, and one in West; one in a person over 70 years of age, and two in infants under one year.

Smallpox, which has been conspicuous by its absence from the district for years, was discovered in two inmates of the Model Lodging House on the 6th of June, who were promptly removed to the Infectious Hospital at Bury.

On the 13th of July another case occurred and was also promptly removed.

All the cases recovered, and though strict watch was kept, to my knowledge no other case transpired.

Scarlet Fever and Measles seem to have occurred in a mild form, in isolated cases, and have caused no deaths.

It has not been found necessary, at any time during the year, to interfere with the work in the different schools—often a fruitful source of infection.

Of all the means for preventing the spreading of infection, isolation has been found to be undoubtedly the best, and though from the limited house accommodation it has not been possible to always secure it, still it is gratifying to have to record favourable results. Fumigation by sulphur has been extensively employed, under the supervision of the Inspector and myself, and should be always employed, in houses where scarlet fever has made its appearance, and as in cases of Enteric fever all vessels used in the sick room ought to be disinfected by means of such agents as permanganate of potash, chloride of lime, or carbolic acid, and all closets and ashpits ought to be frequently emptied.

Notices have been posted through the district, in regard to the disposal of animal and vegetable refuse in ashpits. The night-soil contents have received close supervision, as will be seen from the

Inspector's tabular statement. The difficulty of satisfactorily dealing with the refuse has been under consideration on several occasions, and it seems to me that the best method of treating such refuse will be by the adoption of a Destructor. We are still working under the disadvantage of not having adopted the Notification of Infectious Diseases Act, and though table A is filled up according to the Registrar's returns, table B only supplies information, ascertained during progress through the district.

Included in the work of the inspector, a report was presented in October, accompanied by explanatory plans and exhaustive notes on the inspection of an unhealthy area, situated in the centre of the district, comprising 45 tenements, mostly of "back to back" dwellings. This report is now before the Council for consideration.

Accompanied by the Inspector, 32 factories and 30 workshops have been carefully inspected, and 9 cases have been noted as to sanitary improvements necessary to be carried out.

Slaughter houses and bake houses and the market have received frequent attention.

From noninfectious diseases the number of deaths is 211, and out of this number 20 are due to Phthisis, giving a death-rate for that disease of 1.16 per 1,000, calculated on the population, and 8.8 of the entire number of deaths. Out of these 20 cases recorded, 11 occurred in males, and 9 in females, and in 10 cases the persons were employed in the cotton industry, the ages varying from fifteen to seventy-one the majority being between the ages of 30 and 50 years.

Under the heading of Respiratory diseases 50 deaths occurred, giving a death-rate of 2.9 per 1,000 of the population, and 22 per cent of the entire number of deaths. Of these, 20 occurred in children under 5 years of age, and 30 in persons over that age. This shows a decrease of 13 deaths, compared with last year.

It is my belief that, mortality in infants from this cause, might be still considerably lessened. It is a noted fact that, persons in the extremes of age—young and old—bear the changes of temperature badly, and the exposure of infants, either in the early morning, when being carried by mothers to day nurses, or taken to a crowded evening entertainment, in a heated room, undoubtedly renders them liable to attacks of chest diseases, which unfortunately often prove fatal.

From Heart Disease 36 deaths occurred, the death-rate for this disease being 2.1 per 1,000, and 15.8 per cent. of the entire number of deaths, an increase of eight over last year.

From other causes, including three from accident or violence, 101 deaths occurred.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours respectfully,

WILLIAM DEANS, M.B.

Medical Officer of Health.

Nuisance Inspector's Annual Report for 1894.

To the Chairman and Members of the Ramsbottom Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,
I herewith beg to submit a record of Sanitary work for the year 1894.

STREET SCAVENGING has been systematically carried out, the gullies being frequently cleansed and disinfected.

SEWERS AND MANHOLES have been repeatedly examined, cleared of sedimentary matter, disinfected and repaired in several cases.

PUBLIC URINALS have been constantly flushed, cleansed and disinfected.

NIGHTSOIL AND HOUSE REFUSE REMOVAL: Contractors were again entered into in all the Wards, and I append details of work performed, with totals in comparison with the previous year's results:—

Year 1894.	No. of Ashpits and Privies.	Cesspools.	Pails.	No. of Loads.
Ward				
Central ..	1452 ..	256 ..	3520 ..	2080
West ..	1102 ..	125 ..	2304 ..	1357
North ..	474 ..	153 ..	5216 ..	1296
East ..	755 ..	93 ..	2980 ..	1564
Totals ..	4083	627	14020	6297
„ 1893	3971	685	10582	5553
Increase	112	—	3438	744
Decrease	—	58	—	—

With regard to this work, the main and increasing difficulty experienced is the disposal of refuse. There has been one “tip” the less, and two other places—Kenyon-street and Nuttall-lane—are a constant source of trouble, either at the hands of the owners or the various users, there being in neither instance proper control exercised over same. The bulk of material disposed of (6,297 loads) is divided as follows:—At “tips”: Kenyon-street, 1772; Nuttall-lane, 1,641; Dearden Clough, 890; Summerseat, 465; Ewood Wood, 269; Shipperbottom, 293; total, 5,330; to farmers, 967.

These particulars forcibly indicate the extent of the growth of these more or less offensive accumulations dotted over the district.

The cost of maintaining these “tips” has been £84, but this expenditure does not ensure any guarantee that the privileges allowed the Council are continuous for any given period.

I regret to have to record that no progress has been made as to the erection of a Refuse Destructor. In this matter, there are at present three important conditions which show that such provision is more imperative than ever, viz.: 1st, only 1 load out of every 7 of refuse is accepted by farmers; 2nd, the slow conversion of closets to the pail or water-closet system; and 3rd, the continued difficulty of securing and permanently using refuse depôts.

The REGISTERED COMMON LODGING-HOUSE has been thoroughly examined from time to time, and during the small-pox epidemic, inspections night and day were numerous. The work of cleansing, disinfecting and fumigating the various rooms was kept up until the epidemic subsided.

In relation to the Sewerage Scheme, I would recommend the Council to seriously consider the advisability of adopting regulations as to dealing with connections to proposed system, as to (a) notice of intention to connect, (b) deposit of plans and sections of each drain, showing levels, mode of construction, and position of connection, (c) the jointing of pipes, (d) ventilating and trapping of drains as mentioned in my reports to your predecessors on Nov. 1st, 1894.

As to the reception of Manufacturers' Waste Waters into the main sewers, the late Authority established a precedent as to the conditions under which such should be accepted.

The suggested regulations might include provision for dealing with waste waters of this character,

By these means the Council will be able to compile a reliable reference of future connections to the lines of sewers.

I subjoin particulars as to Nuisances, etc.
SCAVENGING CONTRACT.

	Cent.	West.	North.	East.	Tot's.
Notices served on Contractors	178	106	44	79	407
Representing Ashpits and Privies	395	218	76	195	884
Cesspools	104	33	11	40	188
Pails	18	156	117	63	353

Total number of Inspections made is....	4,153
Ashpits additional constructed	1
„ reconstructed and repaired	29
„ placed on pail system	7
„ placed on Automatic W.C. system	18
„ pails provided	7
Water Closets constructed and repaired	2
Cesspools done away with	12
„ repaired	3
Offensive accumulations removed	23
Pig Cotes done away with	1
Passages and Yards cleansed, re-formed and paved in connection with 18 Houses..	4
Rooms cleansed, limewashed and fumigated	25
House &c. drains disconnected and trapped	70
House &c. drains cleansed and repaired	19
„ reconstructed, and constructed to remove nuisances	11
House &c. drains flushed and disinfected	3
„ connected to sewers ..	15
Road drains, repaired, disconnected and trapped	28
Main Sewers cleansed and repaired	8
Manholes cleansed and repaired	11
Dangerous and ruinous buildings pulled down or made secure	4

The following places have been examined and found clean and satisfactory with the exceptions named:—

8 Bakehouses	
10 Slaughter Houses	
Floor repaired	1
Drainage constructed	1
Offensive accumulation removed	1
Licensed	3
Market Place	
Registered Common Lodging House	1
3 Tripe boiling places	
57 Cowsheds and Dairies:—	
Water supply tested and found satisfactory	1
Water supply provided	1
Liquid manure tanks provided	2
Privy removed from adjoining cowshed	1
Premises re-drained	3
Ventilation and additional light provided	1
Offensive accumulation removed	1
62 Workshops and Factories:	
Cases notified to limewash, and improve sanitary arrangements	9

Smoke Nuisance: Observations have been made and 4 notices of caution given.

“Back to Back” dwellings (special report thereon)	45
Public Well cleansed	1
Private Wells, pollution prevented	2
Refuse Depôts or “Tips”	7
6 Public Urinals: 1 erected 1 drain repaired.	
Unhealthy dwellings closed	2
Manufacturers' Waste Waters—clarifying processes in operation	5
Houses erected	15
„ additions to	10
Factories, &c., additions to	4
Number of Legal notices served during the year	3
Number of Nuisances under notice from Inspector to abate	20

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,
ARTHUR W. SMITH.

RAMSBOTTOM

Urban District

COUNCIL.



ANNUAL

REPORTS

OF

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Nuisance Inspector

For 1894.

J. J. RILEY, Observer "Office, Ramsbottom."